

Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, November 30, 1844, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

Washington, November 30, 1844.

My Dear General, I have just received your letter post-marked 20 Inst. and have taken measures, now that the old Villian John Q. has the body of his peers the House of Reps. brought together at this place to have him forthwith put upon his trial. As Ingersoll has been assailed by him in his speeches, it struck me that he would be the proper person to put the whip in the hands of, that he might get his deserts. Being both members of the House, and on equality in that respect and not far apart in age, it seemed to me, that the threshing would come more appropriately and would be felt much more keenly from him than me. I have therefore seen Ingersoll and in a talk of three hours given him all the views I had of the manner in which the old Scorpion should be surrounded in a ring of fire. He is the most vulnerable man alive and as he is the most vindictive deserves no mercy, and I think I have so inflamed Ingersol that he will get none. He has abused Ingersol shockingly and he can manage himself in no way so completely as by running the parrallel between your life and Adams, which the latter seems to provoke. If I think that there are any deficiencies in Ingersols expositions, I can make them up in editorials of the Globe. I promise you that "the new questions of veracity" with old Johnny, will not be as long delayed as Clay's with him have been, probably by the end of next week, Ingersol will be out on him. Adams will probably respond in the House. If so Ingersol can, without breach of decorum make all his offences a sort of Congressional Indictment, spread at large in the debates; 1 and he promises that he will review him from his infancy up.

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¹ See p. 345, note 1, post.

The city is full of members. It seems to be the general impression that the present cabinet do not mean to surrender the Govt. to the President- elect ; but to hold over and make the new administration a sort of continuance of Tylerism. Not content with this, several of the members, Buchannan, Ingersol, and others have said to me that it seems to be the design of Tyler to supplant his successor by making all the necessary removals and appointments before he comes in. They are evidently playing for 1848, and mean to have a nest egg in every office. Here and there they are putting in Democrats who ought not to have the posts, but such as it will be difficult for the President on coming in to remove. The Whigs chuckle at this. It is doing us great mischief and is likely to do much more. The idea that Tylers appointments were to stand , did as much more mischief, in the canvass, than his support did good. I made war on him as rotten, from first to last, and you see how little harm he was able to do me, (with the help of Penn, Glencoe Bang and Co.) with the true Democracy of the country. I think Tyler is providing now for every renegade in the country and such men as will be sure to betray his successor, when they find him honest and incorruptible to their influence: But he need not fear them. He will stand by the true men and the true men by him. Love to all of your household from mine, with my congratulations again to you on your new triumph in the triumph of your principles.

Yo. af. friend